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State
Department of
Agriculture

Soil
Conservation
Service

Boise,
Idaho



Idaho Water Supply Outlook

February 1, 1986



Foreward

How Forecasts Are Made

Most of the annual streamflow in the Western United States originates as snowfall. This snowfall accumulates high in the mountains during winter and early spring. As the snowpack accumulates, hydrologists estimate the runoff that will occur when it melts. Predictions are based on careful measurements of snow water equivalent at selected index points. Precipitation, temperature, soil moisture and antecedent streamflow data are viewed in conjunction with snowpack data to prepare runoff forecasts. This report presents a comprehensive picture of water supply outlook conditions for areas dependent upon surface runoff. It includes selected streamflow forecasts, summarized snowpack and precipitation data, reservoir storage data and narratives describing current conditions.

Streamflow forecasts are cooperatively generated by Soil Conservation Service and National Weather Service hydrologists. Forecasts become more accurate as more data affecting runoff becomes known. For this reason, forecasts are issued that reflect three future precipitation conditions — Below Normal, Average, and Above Normal. These forecasts are termed reasonable minimum, most probable, and reasonable maximum. Actual streamflow can be expected to fall between the lower and upper forecast values eight out of ten years.

Snowpack data are obtained by using a combination of manual and automated measurement methods. Manual readings of snow depth and water equivalent are taken at locations called snow courses on a monthly or semi-monthly schedule during the winter. In addition, snow water equivalent, precipitation, temperature, and other parameters are monitored on a daily basis and transmitted via radio telemetry to central data collection facilities. Both monthly and daily data are used to project snowmelt runoff.

For More Information

Copies of Monthly Water Supply Outlook Reports and other reports may be obtained from the states listed below. Because of the limited space, snow survey measurements are not published in monthly reports. An annual snow survey data summary is published by the Soil Conservation Service for each of the western states. Historical snow survey data may be obtained at those same offices.

STATE	ADDRESS
Alaska	201 East 9th Ave., Suite 300, Anchorage, AK 99501-3687
Arizona	201 East Indianola, Suite 200, Phoenix, AZ 85012
Colorado (New Mexico)	2490 West 26th Ave., Denver, CO 80211
Idaho	304 North 8th Street, Room 345, Boise, ID 83702
Montana	10 East Babcock, Room 443, Federal Building, Bozeman, MT 59715
Nevada	50 South Virginia Street, Third Floor, Reno, NV 89505
Oregon	1220 Southwest 3rd Ave., 16th Floor, Portland, OR 97204
Utah	4402 Federal Building, 125 South State Street, Salt Lake City, UT 84147
Washington	360 U.S. Court House, Spokane, WA 99201
Wyoming	Federal Building, 100 East "B" Street, Casper, WY 82602

In addition to state reports, a Water Supply Outlook for the Western United States is published by the Soil Conservation Service and National Weather Service monthly, January through May. Reports may be obtained from the Soil Conservation Service, West National Technical Center, 511 Northwest Broadway, Room 547, Portland, OR 97209.

Published by other agencies:

Water Supply Outlook Reports prepared by other agencies include: California — Snow Survey Branch, California Department of Water Resources, P.O. Box 388, Sacramento, CA 95802; British Columbia — The Ministry of Environment, Water Investigations Branch, Parliament Buildings, Victoria, British Columbia, V8V 1X5; Yukon Territory — Department of Indian and Northern Affairs, Northern Operations Branch, 200 Range Road, Whitehorse, Yukon Territory, Y1A 3V1; Alberta, Saskatchewan, and N.W.T. — The Water Survey of Canada, Inland Waters Branch, 110-12 Avenue S.W., Calgary, Alberta, T3C 1A6.

Idaho Water Supply Outlook

and

Federal — State — Private Cooperative Snow Surveys

Issued by

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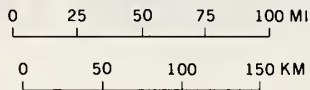
Gerald A. Beard
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Soil Conservation Service
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Boise, Idaho 83702

In cooperation with

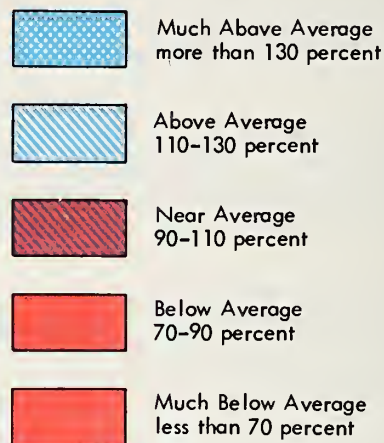
A. Kenneth Dunn
Director
State of Idaho
Department of Water Resources
Boise, Idaho

"Programs and assistance of the United States Department of Agriculture are available without regard to race, creed, color, sex, age, or national origin."

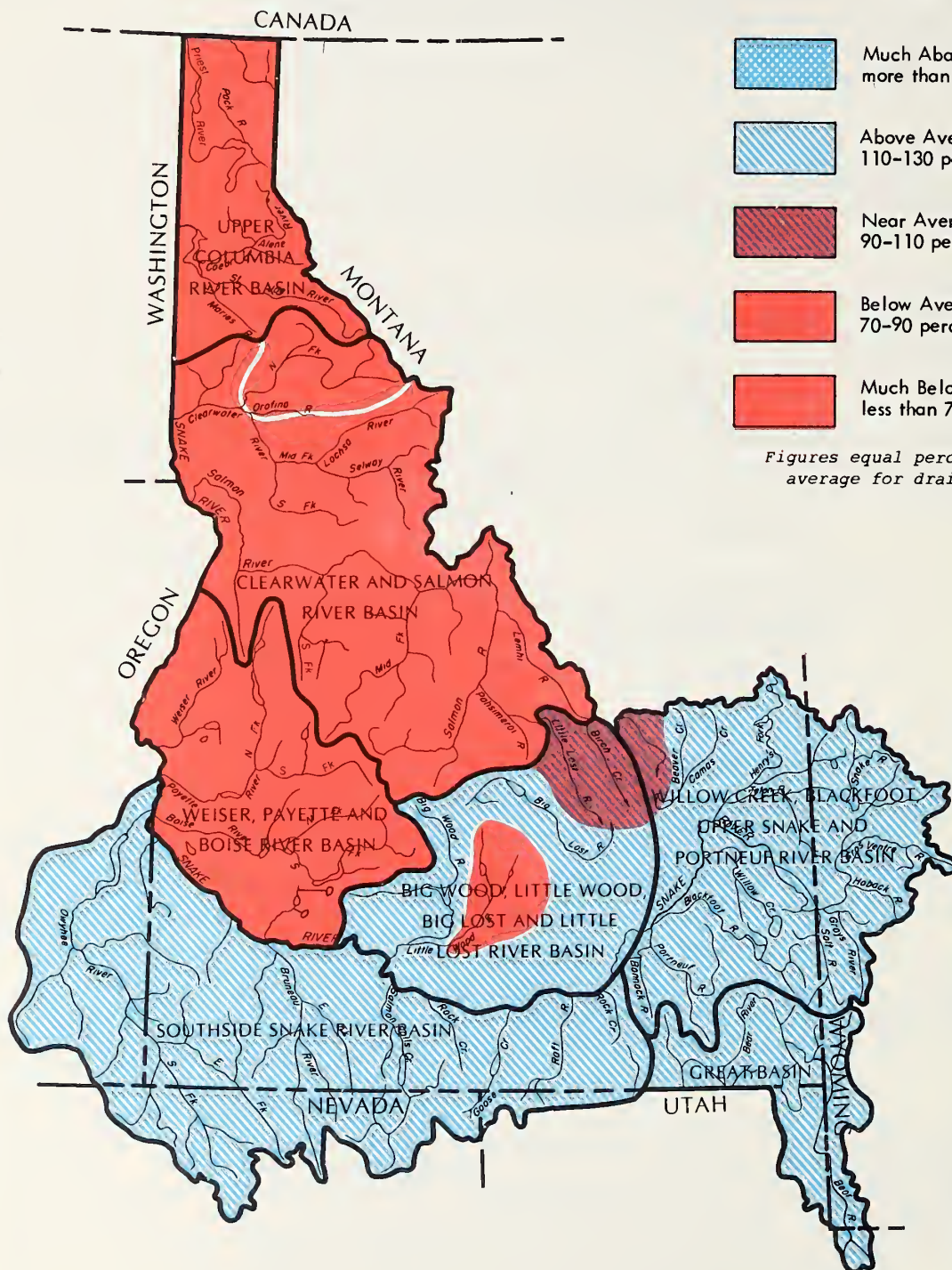
STREAMFLOW PROSPECTS IDAHO



LEGEND



Figures equal percent of average for drainage.



GENERAL OUTLOOK

SUMMARY:

FEBRUARY 1 SURVEYS SHOW SNOWPACK CONDITIONS REMAIN VIRTUALLY UNCHANGED SINCE THE FIRST OF JANUARY EXCEPT FOR THE EASTERN AND EXTREME SOUTHERN PORTIONS OF THE STATE. IN THESE AREAS, SNOWPACKS EXPERIENCED A 5 TO 45% DECLINE IN COMPARISON TO NORMAL. SEASONAL STREAMFLOW VOLUMES ARE EXPECTED TO RANGE FROM BELOW TO SLIGHTLY ABOVE NORMAL ACROSS THE STATE. ASSUMING NEAR NORMAL PRECIPITATION FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE ACCUMULATION SEASON, WATER SUPPLIES SHOULD BE ADEQUATE FOR MOST AREAS.

SNOWPACK:

In general, February 1 snow surveys indicate snow pack conditions have remained about the same or have deteriorated in comparison to normal since the first of January. From McCall northward, snowpack conditions remain below to well below normal, ranging from 62% of average on the Selway River drainage to 73% of average on the Priest River drainage. The central Idaho mountains report below normal snowpack, ranging from 72% of average on the Weiser River to 88% of average on the Big Wood River. In terms of percent of average, eastern Idaho snowpacks have declined since the January 1st measurements, and are now near average. They now range from 89% of average on the Beaver Camas Creek drainage to 112% on the Blackfoot River. Extreme southern and southeastern Idaho snowpacks experienced the largest declines, dropping 25 to 45% (in terms of average) and now range from 97% of average on the Salmon Falls Creek basin to 120% of average on the Montpelier Creek drainage.

PRECIPITATION:

Precipitation during January was generally below or near normal across the state. The lowest readings were observed in the Southwest, where totals were only 60 to 70 percent of average. Northern Idaho, which was very dry in December, fared better during January, but still reported only 80 to 90 percent of average precipitation. The remaining sections of the state were at or above average for the month.

RESERVOIRS:

Reservoir carryover storage remains near normal at 94% of average in 20 key reservoirs across the state. Reservoir storage figures now range between 70 and 130 percent of average. Salmon Falls Creek reservoir reported the highest percentage of carryover storage at 205% of normal. Lucky Peak reservoir has been lowered to only 9% of normal storage for construction purposes.

STREAMFLOW:

April-September seasonal streamflow volumes are forecast to range between 67% and 108% of normal throughout the state. Northern Idaho streamflows [from the Salmon River north] are expected to be below normal, ranging from 67% of average for Inflow to Dworshak Reservoir to 85% for the Priest River at Priest River. Central Idaho watersheds are expected to have below to near normal streamflows, ranging from 73% for the Weiser River near Weiser to 94% for the Big Lost River at Howell Ranch. The remainder of the state is expected to have near to slightly above normal streamflow volumes, ranging from 92% of average for Inflow to Salmon Falls Creek Reservoir to 108% for Montpelier Creek near Montpelier.

SOIL MOISTURE:

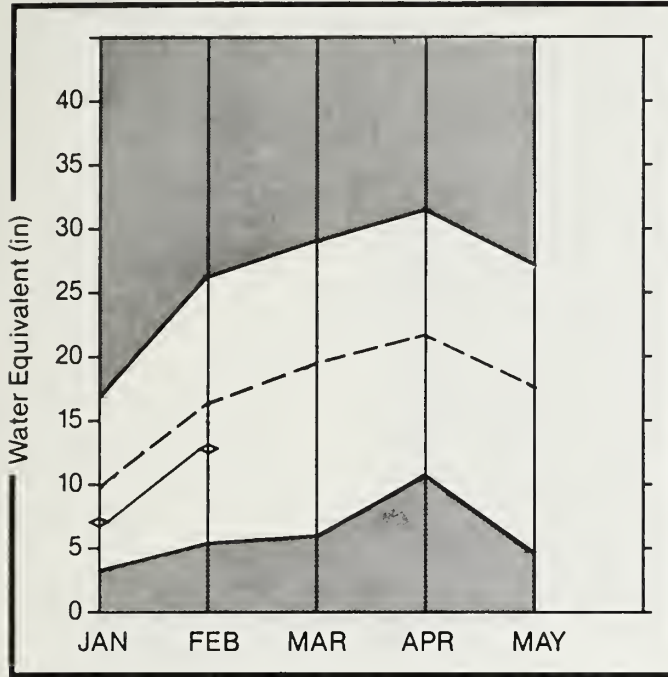
Mountain soil moisture conditions remain below normal over most of Idaho except in the extreme southeastern part of the state where soil moisture conditions are near average.

TEMPERATURE:





Temperatures for the state were near normal, but only after unusually warm weather prevailed over the state during the last 10 days of the month. This greatly aided in balancing out the unusually cold weather that was noted over the first two weeks of January. For the month, the southern portion of the state was near normal while northern Idaho was considerably warmer than average.

Upper Columbia Basin

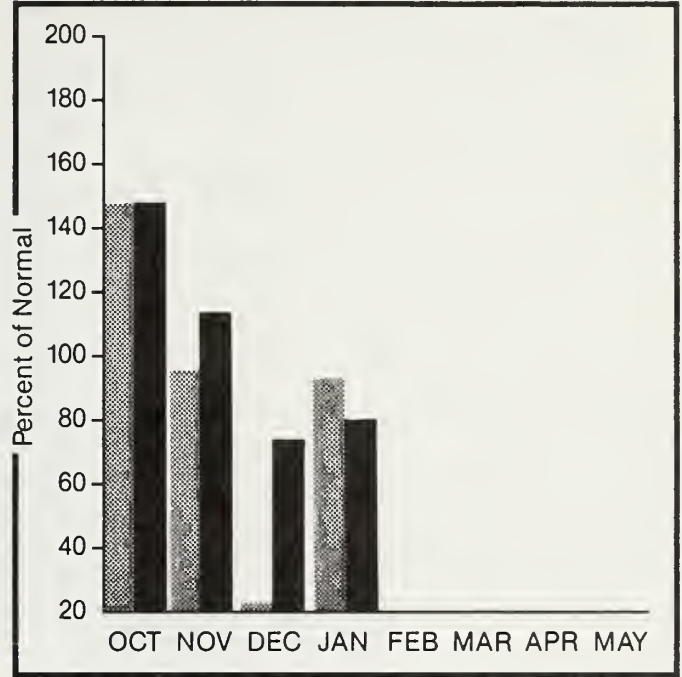
Mountain snowpack* (inches)





*Based on selected stations

Maximum  Average 
 Minimum  Current 

Precipitation* (percent of normal)



*Based on selected stations

Monthly precipitation  Year to date precipitation 

WATER SUPPLY OUTLOOK:

Precipitation amounts for January were much improved over those reported in December, but remained below normal. As a result, snowpack conditions remain below to well below normal over the entire basin, ranging from 68 to 73% of average for February 1. April-September streamflows are forecast to be below normal, ranging from 75 to 85% of normal.

For more information contact your local Soil Conservation Service office.

UPPER COLUMBIA RIVER BASIN

STREAMFLOW FORECASTS

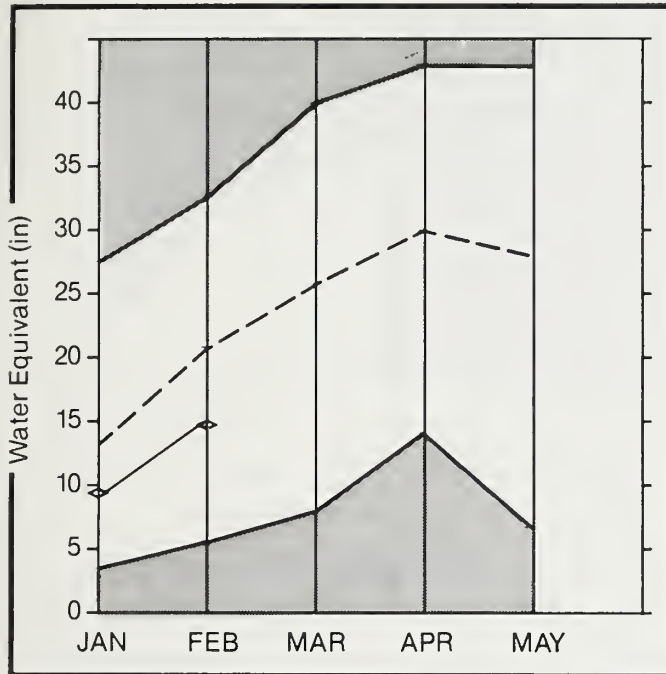
FORECAST POINT	FORECAST PERIOD	20 YR. AVE. (1000AF)	MOST PROBABLE (1000AF)	MOST PROBABLE (% AVE.)	REAS. MAX. (% AVE.)	REAS. MIN. (% AVE.)	PEAK FLOW (CFS)	PEAK DATE	LOW FLOW (CFS)	LOW DATE
KOOTENAI at Leona *	APR-SEP	8602.0	7870.0	91	113	69				
	APR-JUL	7498.0	6860.0	91	113	69				
	APR-JUN	6051.0	5500.0	90	113	69				
CLARK FORK at White Horse Rapids *	APR-SEP	13575.0	10500.0	77	101	53				
	APR-JUL	12351.0	9550.0	77	101	53				
	APR-JUN	10570.0	8140.0	77	101	53				
PEND OREILLE LAKE inflow *	APR-SEP	15150.0	11700.0	77	102	52				
	APR-JUL	13875.0	10800.0	77	103	53				
	APR-JUN	12010.0	9250.0	77	102	52				
PRIEST RIVER at Priest *	APR-SEP	885.0	750.0	84	119	51				
	APR-JUL	832.0	710.0	85	119	51				
SPOKANE at Post Falls *	APR-SEP	2848.0	2160.0	75	112	40				
	APR-JUL	2754.0	2090.0	75	112	40				
ST. JOE at Calder	APR-SEP	1294.0	1000.0	77	105	49				
	APR-JUL	1225.1	960.0	78	106	50				
COEUR D' ALENE at Enaville	APR-SEP	844.2	614.0	72	119	27				
	APR-JUL	804.8	578.0	71	118	26				

RESERVOIR STORAGE (1000AF)					WATERSHED SNOWPACK ANALYSIS			
RESERVOIR	USEABLE CAPACITY	** USEABLE STORAGE **			WATERSHED	NO. COURSES AVE.D	THIS YEAR AS % OF	
		THIS YEAR	LAST YEAR	AVE.			LAST YR.	AVERAGE
HUNGRY HORSE	3451.0	2295.0	2308.0	2353.0	Kootenai ab Bonners Ferry	43	77	75
FLATHEAD LAKE	1791.0	1124.0	835.3	1179.0	Pend Oreille River	114	72	71
PEND OREILLE	1155.1	349.4	531.2	379.8	Clark Fork River	70	71	68
NOXON RAPIDS	335.0	158.8	318.0	312.2	Priest River	5	60	73
COEUR D'ALENE	225.1	59.2	31.3	142.4	Rathdrum Creek	0	0	0
PRIEST LAKE	72.0	5.5	---	---	Hayden Lake	0	0	0
					Coeur d'Alene River	7	61	70
					St. Joe River	5	59	68
					Spokane River	12	60	69
					Palouse River	0	0	0

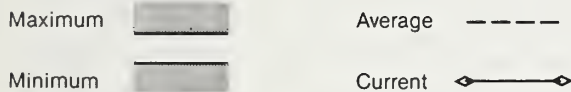
*Corrected for upstream diversions or changes in reservoir storage.
Average is for 1961-80 period.

Clearwater and Salmon River Basin

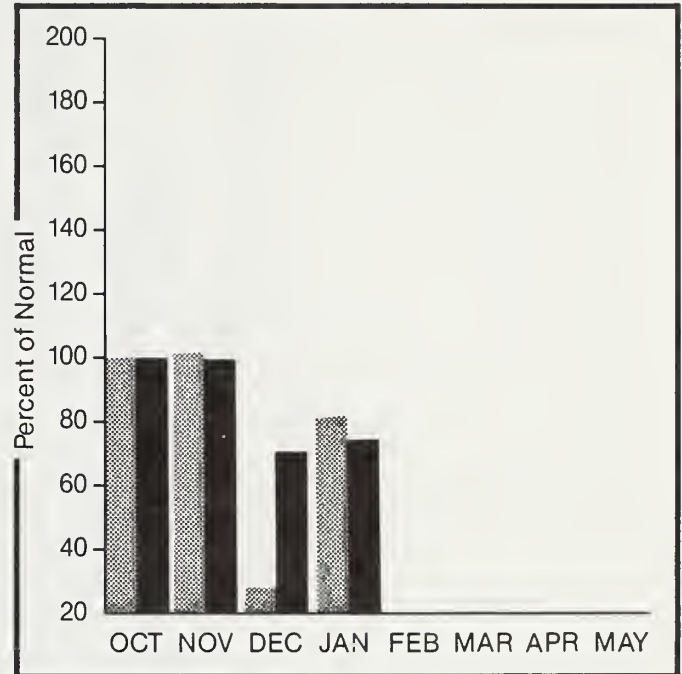
Mountain snowpack* (inches)



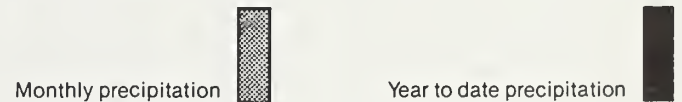
*Based on selected stations



Precipitation* (percent of normal)



*Based on selected stations



WATER SUPPLY OUTLOOK:

Precipitation amounts remained below normal for January. Snowpack conditions showed no improvement during the month and remain below to well below average. Most watersheds within the basin reported snowpacks between 59 and 67% of normal. The one exception to this is in the headwaters of the Salmon River where the snowpack is 81% of normal. April-September streamflows are forecast to range from 67% of average for Inflow to Dworshak Reservoir to 76% for the Salmon River near Salmon.

For more information contact your local Soil Conservation Service office.

CLEARWATER AND SALMON RIVER BASIN

STREAMFLOW FORECASTS

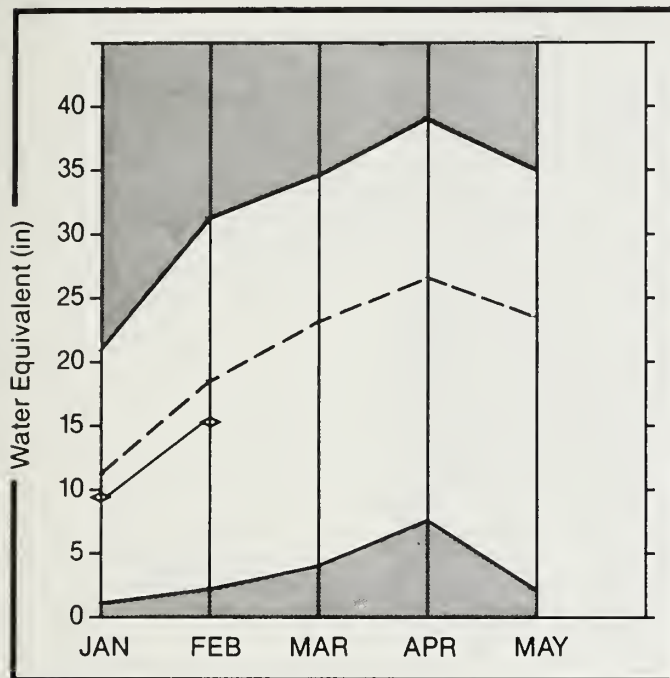
FORECAST POINT	FORECAST PERIOD	20 YR. AVE. (1000AF)	MOST PROBABLE (1000AF)	MOST PROBABLE (% AVE.)	REAS. MAX. (% AVE.)	REAS. MIN. (% AVE.)	PEAK FLOW (CFS)	PEAK DATE	LOW FLOW (CFS)	LOW DATE
CLEARWATER at Orofino	APR-SEP	5185.0	3630.0	70	99	41				
	APR-JUL	4917.0	3440.0	69	99	41				
CLEARWATER at Spalding	APR-SEP	8460.0	5840.0	69	92	46				
	APR-JUL	8000.0	5520.0	69	92	46				
DWORSHAK RESERVOIR inflow	APR-SEP	2985.0	2000.0	67	90	44				
	APR-JUL	2805.0	1880.0	67	90	44				
SALMON at Whitebird	APR-SEP	6876.0	5290.0	76	99	55				
	APR-JUL	6211.0	4780.0	76	99	55				
SALMON at Salmon	APR-SEP	1053.0	810.0	76	121	33				
	APR-JUL	899.0	690.0	76	121	33				

RESERVOIR STORAGE (1000AF)					WATERSHED SNOWPACK ANALYSIS			
RESERVOIR	USEABLE CAPACITY	** USEABLE STORAGE **			WATERSHED	NO. COURSES AVE.0	THIS YEAR AS % OF	
		THIS YEAR	LAST YEAR	AVE.			LAST YR.	AVERAGE
DWORSHAK	2016.0	943.9	1410.8	---	North Fork Clearwater	11	64	70
					Lochsa River	4	68	64
					Selway River	1	71	62
					Clearwater River	14	64	68
					Salmon River ab Salmon	5	101	81
					Lemhi River	1	88	59
					Salmon River Total	16	82	74

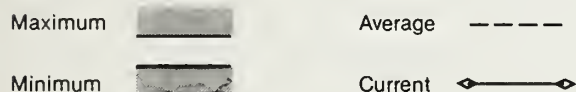
*Corrected for upstream diversions or changes in reservoir storage.
Average is for 1961-80 period.

Weiser, Payette, and Boise River Basin

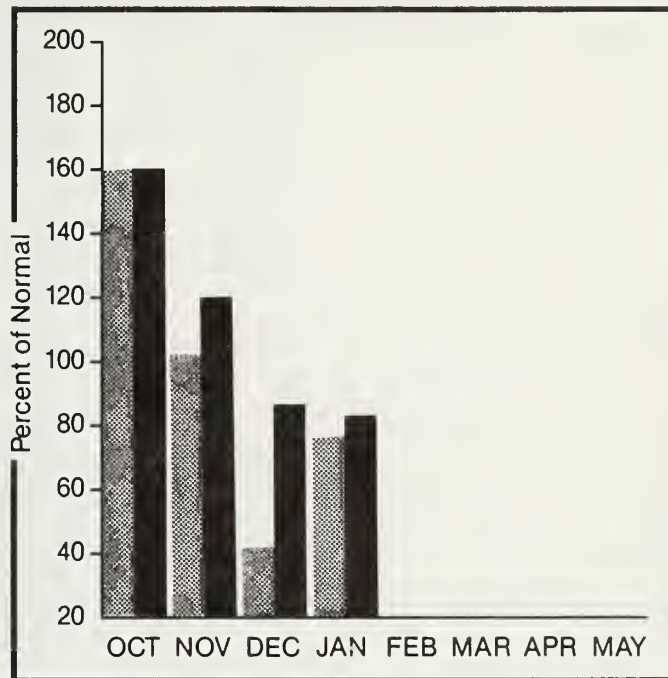
Mountain snowpack* (inches)



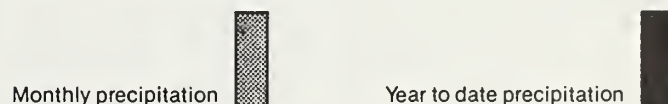
*Based on selected stations



Precipitation* (percent of normal)



*Based on selected stations



WATER SUPPLY OUTLOOK:

Below normal precipitation amounts continued through January over most of the basin. Snowpack conditions remain below normal ranging from 77 to 88% of normal except on the Weiser River drainage where the snowpack is reported to be only 72% of average. April-September streamflows are forecast to range from a low of 73% of average on the Weiser near Weiser to 90% for the Boise River near Boise.

For more information contact your local Soil Conservation Service office.

WEISER, PAYETTE AND BOISE RIVER BASIN

STREAMFLOW FORECASTS

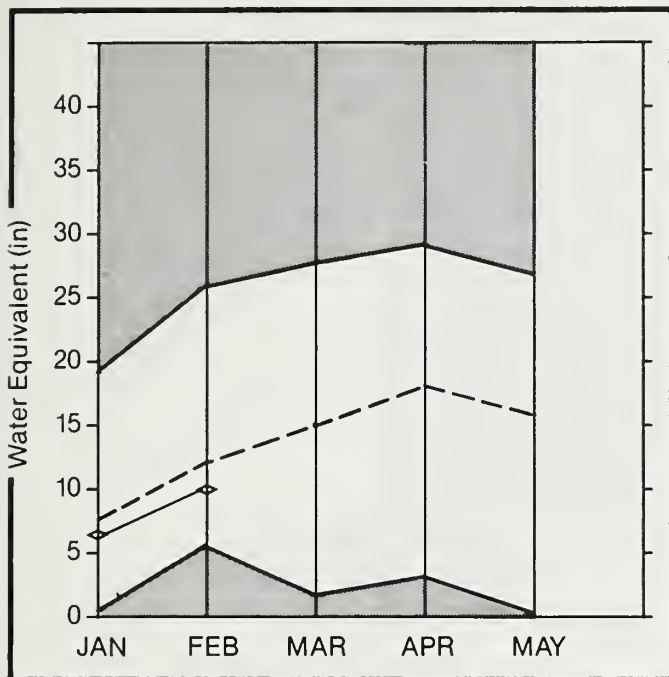
FORECAST POINT	FORECAST PERIOD	20 YR. AVE. (1000AF)	MOST PROBABLE (1000AF)	MOST PROBABLE (% AVE.)	REAS. MAX. (% AVE.)	REAS. MIN. (% AVE.)	PEAK FLOW (CFS)	PEAK DATE	LOW FLOW (CFS)	LOW DATE
WEISER nr Weiser	APR-SEP	427.0	315.0	73	113	35				
	APR-JUL	399.0	295.0	73	113	35				
PAYETTE nr Horseshoe	APR-SEP	1817.0	1540.0	84	110	60				
	APR-JUL	1678.0	1430.0	85	110	60				
NF PAYETTE at Cascade	APR-SEP	553.4	470.0	84	106	64				
	APR-JUL	517.8	440.0	84	106	64				
NF PAYETTE nr Banks	APR-SEP	712.4	605.0	84	110	60				
	APR-JUL	671.4	570.0	84	110	60				
SF PAYETTE at Lowman	APR-SEP	497.2	422.0	84	110	60				
	APR-JUL	440.6	374.0	84	110	60				
DEADWOOD RESERVOIR inflow	APR-JUL	141.0	119.0	84	109	60				
BOISE RIVER nr Twin Springs	APR-SEP	705.4	635.0	90	116	64				
	APR-JUL	650.0	585.0	89	116	64				
SF BOISE at Anderson Dam	APR-SEP	589.5	535.0	90	112	70				
	APR-JUL	551.3	501.0	90	112	70				
BOISE RIVER nr Boise	APR-SEP	1571.4	1430.0	90	115	67				
	APR-JUL	1454.4	1320.0	90	115	67				
	APR-JUN	1279.4	1160.0	90	115	67				

RESERVOIR STORAGE (1000AF)					WATERSHED SNOWPACK ANALYSIS			
RESERVOIR	USEABLE CAPACITY	** USEABLE STORAGE ** THIS YEAR	LAST YEAR	AVE.	WATERSHED	NO. COURSES AVE.D	THIS YEAR AS % OF LAST YR.	% OF AVERAGE
MANN CREEK	11.1	3.3	3.9	---	Mann Creek	0	0	0
CASCADE	653.2	415.6	392.5	343.9	Weiser River	4	74	72
DEADWOOD	161.9	84.9	107.2	74.5	North Fork Payette	8	77	77
ANDERSON RANCH	423.2	263.1	266.3	253.0	South Fork Payette	5	82	78
ARROWROCK	286.6	251.2	163.2	241.4	Payette River Total	13	79	77
LUCKY PEAK	278.2	7.2	24.2	77.0	Middle & North Fork Boise	8	99	86
LAKE LOWELL (DEER FLAT)	169.0	131.9	124.2	114.7	South Fork Boise River	8	102	88
					Boise River Total	17	92	83
					Canyon Creek	1	88	84



*Corrected for upstream diversions or changes in reservoir storage.
Average is for 1961-80 period.

Big Wood, Little Wood, Big Lost, and Little Lost River Basin

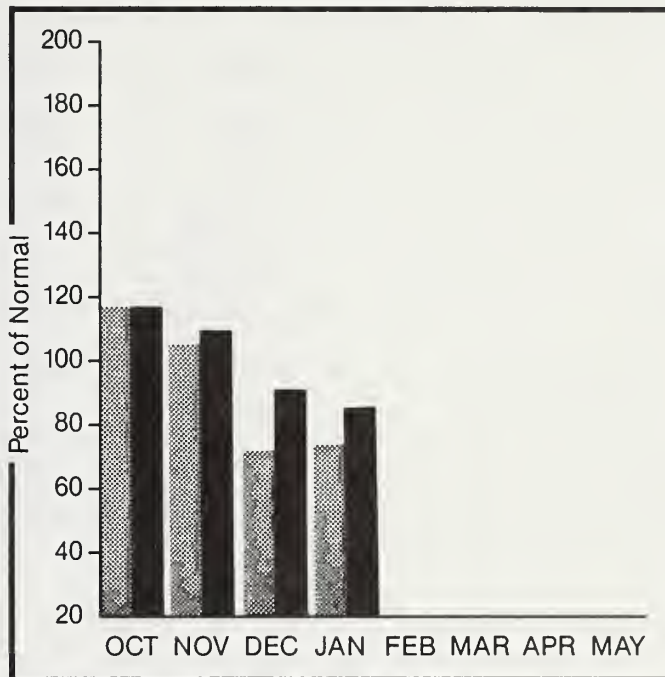
Mountain snowpack* (inches)



*Based on selected stations

Maximum  Average 
Minimum  Current 

Precipitation* (percent of normal)



*Based on selected stations

Monthly precipitation  Year to date precipitation 

WATER SUPPLY OUTLOOK:

Snowpack conditions remain slightly below normal ranging from 80 to 88% of average over most of the basin. The Little Lost River drainage is the exception where the snowpack is reported at only 68% of normal. April-September streamflows are now forecast to be slightly below normal, ranging from 82% of average for the Little Lost below Wet Creek to 94% for the Big Lost at Howell Ranch.

For more information contact your local Soil Conservation Service office.

BIG WOOD, LITTLE WOOD, BIG LOST AND LITTLE LOST RIVER BASIN

STREAMFLOW FORECASTS

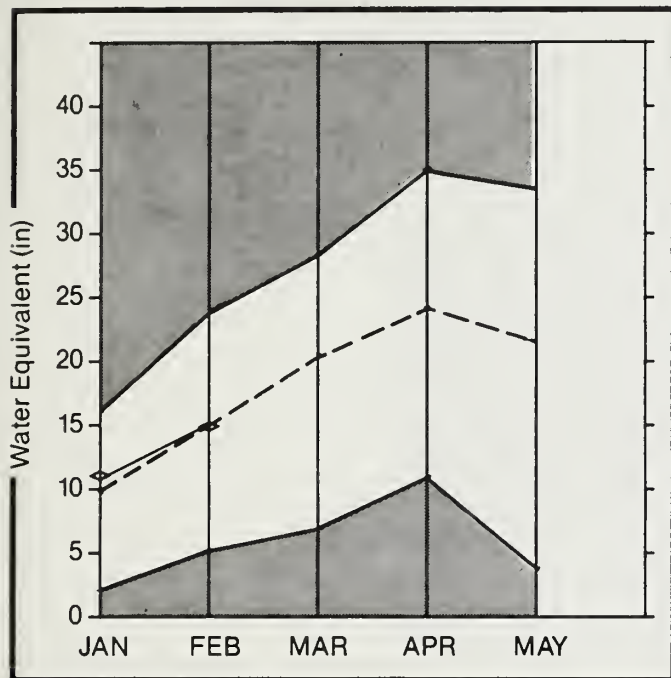
FORECAST POINT	FORECAST PERIOD	20 YR. AVE. (1000AF)	MOST PROBABLE (1000AF)	MOST PROBABLE (% AVE.)	REAS. MAX. (% AVE.)	REAS. MIN. (% AVE.)	PEAK FLOW (CFS)	PEAK DATE	LOW FLOW (CFS)	LOW DATE
BIG WOOD nr Bellevue	APR-SEP	193.3	178.0	92	118	66				
	APR-JUL	179.8	165.0	91	118	66				
MAGIC RESERVOIR inflow	APR-SEP	307.0	285.0	92	140	46				
	APR-JUL	293.0	272.0	92	140	46				
LITTLE WOOD nr Carey	APR-SEP	100.9	85.0	84	117	51				
	APR-JUL	93.1	79.0	84	118	52				
BIG LOST at Howell Ranch	APR-SEP	211.2	200.0	94	133	57				
	APR-JUL	186.1	176.0	94	133	56				
	APR-JUN	144.4	137.0	94	133	57				
BIG LOST nr Mackay	APR-SEP	183.7	169.0	91	129	55				
LITTLE LOST bl Wet Ck	APR-SEP	38.7	32.2	83	121	44				
	APR-JUL	31.3	26.0	82	121	45				
LITTLE LOST nr Howe	APR-SEP	42.2	35.0	82	121	45				
	APR-JUL	32.5	26.7	82	120	46				

RESERVOIR STORAGE (1000AF)					WATERSHED SNOWPACK ANALYSIS			
RESERVOIR	USEABLE CAPACITY	** USEABLE STORAGE **	THIS YEAR	LAST YEAR	AVE.	WATERSHED	NO. COURSES AVE.D	THIS YEAR AS % OF LAST YR. AVERAGE
MAGIC	191.5	93.4	142.5	86.7		Big Wood ab Magic	8	109 88
LITTLE WOOD	30.0	21.6	23.8	14.7		Camas Creek	3	87 80
CAREY VALLEY	14.4	6.4	7.3	---		Big Wood Total	10	103 87
MACKAY	44.2	25.3	30.1	29.2		Little Wood River	4	109 83
						Fish Creek	0	0 0
						Big Lost River	4	101 84
						Little Lost River	3	99 68

*Corrected for upstream diversions or changes in reservoir storage.
Average is for 1961-80 period.

Willow Creek, Blackfoot, Upper Snake, and Portneuf River Basin

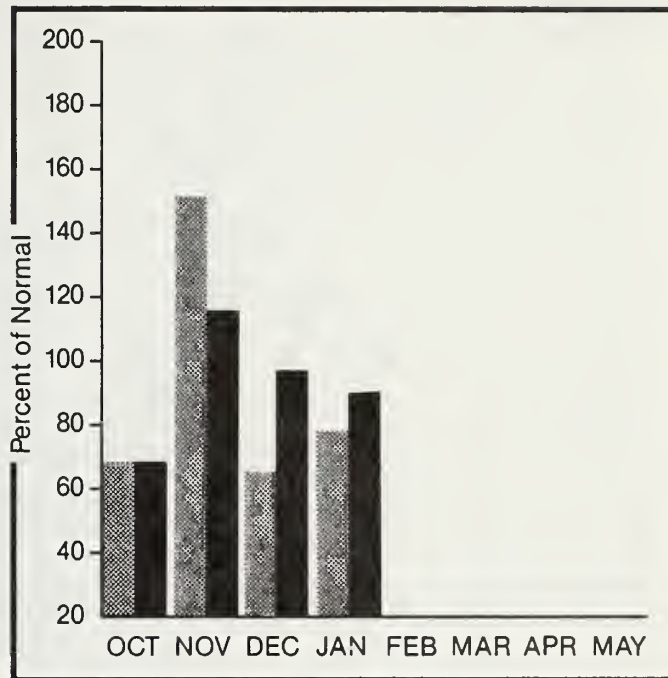
Mountain snowpack* (inches)



*Based on selected stations

Maximum Average Minimum Current

Precipitation* (percent of normal)



*Based on selected stations

Monthly precipitation Year to date precipitation

WATER SUPPLY OUTLOOK:

In terms of percent of average, February 1 snowpacks declined 5 to 35% from those reported on January 1. The largest declines were reported on the Portneuf, Blackfoot and Willow Creek drainages. Snowpack conditions are now near normal, ranging from 89% of average on the Beaver/Camas Creek watershed to 112% on the Blackfoot. April-September streamflows are forecast to be near normal ranging from 94% of average for the Henry's Fork near Ashton to 104% for the Portneuf at Topaz.

For more information contact your local Soil Conservation Service office.

WILLOW CREEK, BLACKFOOT, UPPER SNAKE AND PORTNEUF RIVER BASIN

STREAMFLOW FORECASTS

FORECAST POINT	FORECAST PERIOD	20 YR. AVE. (1000AF)	MOST PROBABLE (1000AF)	MOST PROBABLE (% AVE.)	REAS. MAX. (% AVE.)	REAS. MIN. (% AVE.)	PEAK FLOW (CFS)	PEAK DATE	LOW FLOW (CFS)	LOW DATE
HENRY'S FORK nr Ashton *	APR-SEP	714.0	678.0	94	107	83				
	APR-JUL	529.1	500.0	94	106	83				
HENRYS FORK nr Rexburg *	APR-SEP	1474.7	1415.0	95	117	75				
	APR-JUL	1153.3	1100.0	95	116	74				
FALLS RIVER nr Squirrel	APR-JUL	366.0	355.0	96	113	81				
TETON RIVER ab S Leigh Ck	APR-SEP	193.9	187.0	96	111	81				
	APR-JUL	145.0	140.0	96	112	81				
TETON nr St. Anthony	APR-SEP	465.0	450.0	96	114	80				
	APR-JUL	375.0	364.0	97	114	80				
SNAKE at Moran *	APR-SEP	880.0	850.0	96	114	80				
PALISADES LAKE inflow *	APR-SEP	3793.0	3620.0	95	117	73				
SNAKE nr Heise *	APR-SEP	4066.5	3900.0	95	124	68				
	APR-JUL	3464.8	3330.0	96	124	68				
SNAKE nr Blackfoot *	APR-SEP	5537.0	5370.0	96	125	69				
	APR-JUL	4465.0	4330.0	96	125	69				
PORTNEUF at Topaz	MAR-SEP	102.0	107.0	104	142	68				
	MAR-JUL	82.1	86.0	104	141	68				

RESERVOIR STORAGE (1000AF)

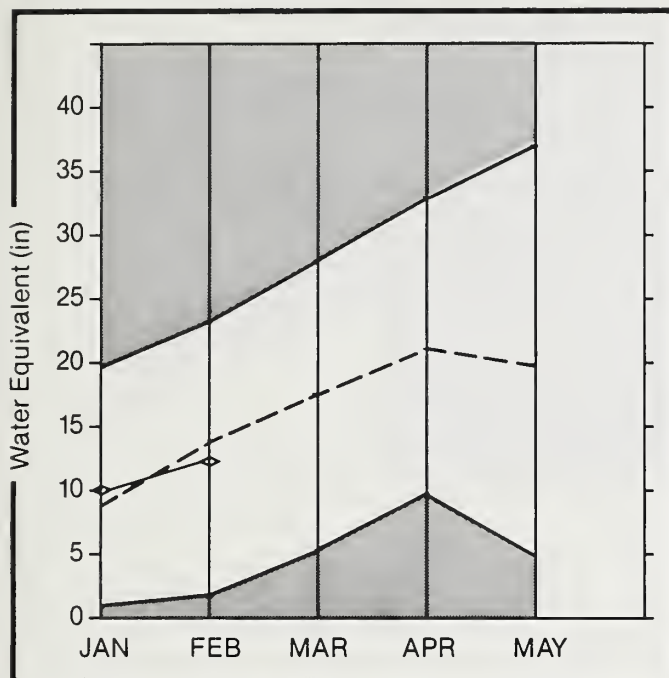
WATERSHED SNOWPACK ANALYSIS

RESERVOIR	USEABLE CAPACITY	** USEABLE STORAGE **			WATERSHED	NO. COURSES AVE.D	THIS YEAR AS % OF	
		THIS YEAR	LAST YEAR	AVE.			LAST YR.	AVERAGE
ISLAND PARK	127.0	95.6	87.8	99.3	Camas-Beaver Creeks	3	131	89
GRASSY LAKE	15.1	12.9	13.0	10.4	Henrys Fork River	7	99	91
JACKSON LAKE	624.4	149.4	275.4	612.5	Teton River	9	97	97
PALISADES	1200.0	912.9	929.3	907.8	Snake above Palisades	30	115	97
AMERICAN FALLS	1673.0	1103.3	1261.4	1134.6	Snake above Jackson Lake	8	98	93
BROWNLEE	980.2	682.0	562.8	659.9	Gros Ventre River	3	139	106
					Greys River	4	142	100
					Salt River	5	105	93
					Willow Creek	9	104	111
					Blackfoot River	4	118	112
					Portneuf River	3	111	101
					Toponce Creek	0	0	0

*Corrected for upstream diversions or changes in reservoir storage.
Average is for 1961-80 period.

Southside Snake River Basin

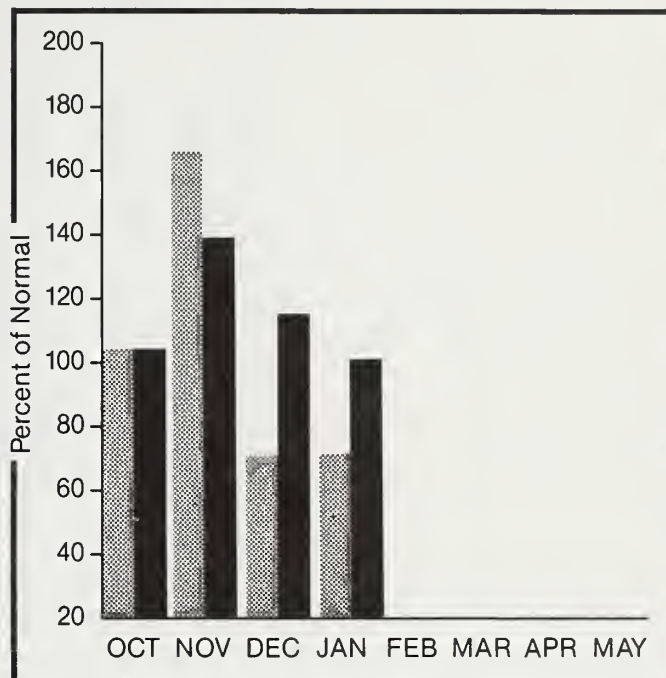
Mountain snowpack* (inches)



*Based on selected stations

Maximum ——— Average - - - - -
Minimum ——— Current ◊ ———

Precipitation* (percent of normal)



*Based on selected stations

Monthly precipitation [hatched bar] Year to date precipitation [solid black bar]

WATER SUPPLY OUTLOOK:

A combination of below normal precipitation and warm temperatures causing snowmelt in the low elevations resulted in snowpacks declining 25 to 45% in terms of percent of average. However, snowpack conditions remain near or slightly above normal, ranging from 93% of average on the Salmon Falls Creek watershed to 118% on the Raft River. March-September and April-September streamflows are now forecast to be near normal, ranging from 92% to 104% of average throughout the basin.

For more information contact your local Soil Conservation Service office.

SOUTHSIDE SNAKE RIVER BASIN

STREAMFLOW FORECASTS

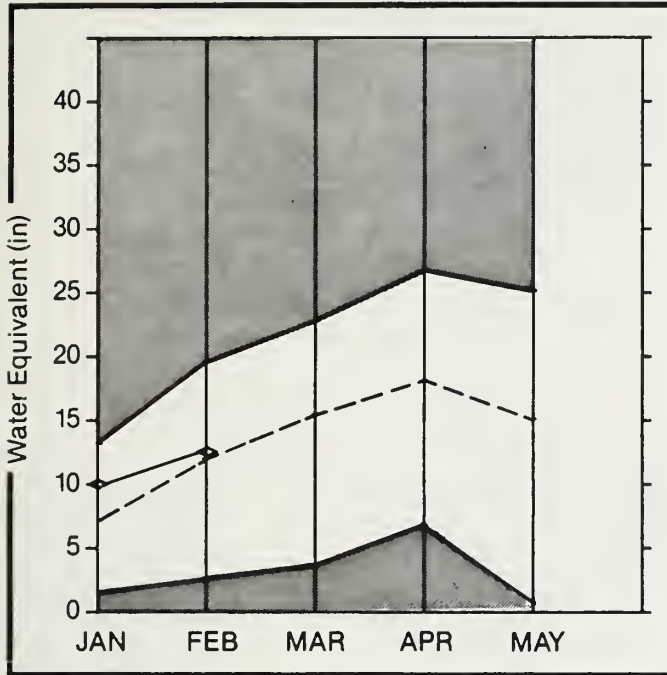
FORECAST POINT	FORECAST PERIOD	20 YR. AVE. (1000AF)	MOST PROBABLE (1000AF)	MOST PROBABLE (% AVE.)	REAS. MAX. (% AVE.)	REAS. MIN. (% AVE.)	PEAK FLOW (CFS)	PEAK DATE	LOW FLOW (CFS)	LOW DATE
OAKLEY RESERVOIR inflow	APR-SEP	30.2	31.7	104	142	70				
	APR-JUL	27.2	28.6	105	143	70				
SALMON FALLS CK nr San Jacinto	MAR-SEP	93.9	87.0	92	134	51				
	MAR-JUL	89.3	83.0	92	134	51				
	MAR-JUN	84.3	78.0	92	134	51				
BRUNEAU nr Hot Spring	MAR-SEP	243.3	245.0	100	145	57				
	MAR-JUL	231.5	233.0	100	145	57				
OWYHEE RIVER nr Gold Creek *	APR-JUL	22.0	24.0	109	173	45				
OWYHEE RIVER nr Owyhee *	APR-JUL	85.4	86.0	100	107	95				
OWYHEE LAKE inflow *	APR-SEP	376.0	395.0	105	156	54				
	APR-JUL	349.0	366.0	104	156	54				
OWYHEE at Rome *	APR-JUL	376.0	395.0	105	155	55				

RESERVOIR STORAGE (1000AF)					WATERSHED SNOWPACK ANALYSIS			
RESERVOIR	USEABLE CAPACITY	** USEABLE STORAGE ** THIS YEAR	LAST YEAR	AVE.	WATERSHED	NO. COURSES AVE.D	THIS YEAR AS % OF LAST YR.	AVERAGE
OAKLEY	74.4	37.1	42.3	25.6	Raft River	1	143	118
SALMON FALLS	182.6	92.8	134.0	45.2	Goose-Trapper Creeks.	1	164	107
OWYHEE	715.0	470.0	579.6	443.9	Salmon Falls Creek	7	121	93
					Bruneau River	8	98	102
					Owyhee River	12	96	110

*Corrected for upstream diversions or changes in reservoir storage.
Average is for 1961-80 period.

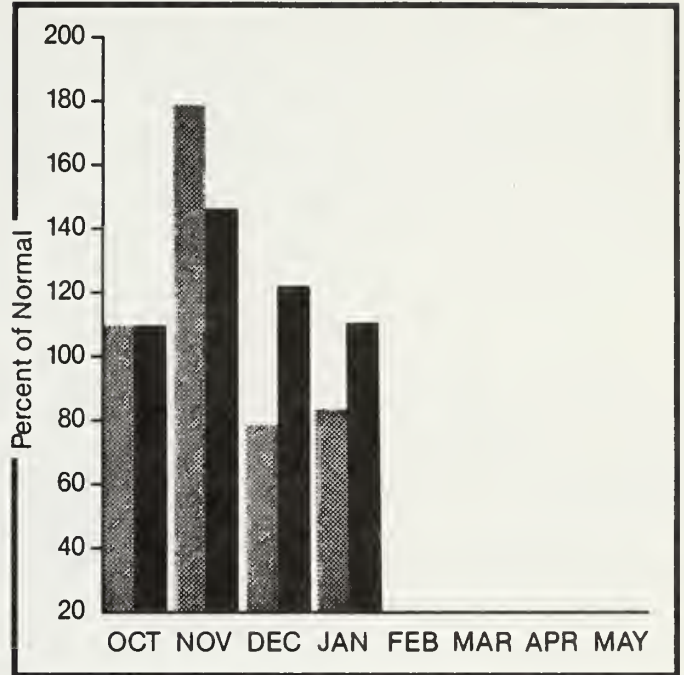
Great Basin

Mountain snowpack* (inches)





*Based on selected stations

Precipitation* (percent of normal)



*Based on selected stations

Maximum  Average 
Minimum  Current 

Monthly precipitation  Year to date precipitation 

WATER SUPPLY OUTLOOK:

In comparison to normal, February 1 snowpacks declined 30-40% from those reported on January 1. However, even with these major declines, snowpack conditions remain near or above normal, ranging from 101% of normal on the Bear River above Harer to 120% on Montpelier Creek. April-September streamflows are now forecast to be near or slightly above normal, ranging from 92% of average on the Cub River near Preston to 108% on Montpelier Creek near Montpelier.

For more information contact your local Soil Conservation Service office.

GREAT BASIN

STREAMFLOW FORECASTS

FORECAST POINT	FORECAST PERIOD	20 YR. AVE. (1000AF)	MOST PROBABLE (1000AF)	MOST PROBABLE (% AVE.)	REAS. MAX. (% AVE.)	REAS. MIN. (% AVE.)	PEAK FLOW (CFS)	PEAK DATE	LOW FLOW (CFS)	LOW DATE
BEAR at Harer	APR-SEP	310.0	297.0	95	131	67				
MONTPELIER CK nr Montpelier	APR-SEP	13.9	15.1	108	151	72				
CUB RIVER nr Preston	APR-SEP	51.7	48.0	92	126	60				
	APR-JUL	46.8	45.0	96	128	64				

RESERVOIR STORAGE (1000AF)					WATERSHED SNOWPACK ANALYSIS			
RESERVOIR	USEABLE CAPACITY	** USEABLE STORAGE ** THIS YEAR	LAST YEAR	AVE.	WATERSHED	NO. COURSES AVE.D	THIS YEAR AS % OF LAST YR.	% OF AVERAGE
BEAR LAKE	1421.0	1057.7	1077.2	970.6	Bear River (above Harer)	11	116	101
MONTPELIER CREEK	4.0	1.8	---	---	Montpelier Creek	6	128	120
					Mink Creek	5	123	110
					Cub River	3	112	108
					Malad River	0	0	0

*Corrected for upstream diversions or changes in reservoir storage.
Average is for 1961-80 period.

OTHER INFORMATION

AG EVENTS:

Some land just shouldn't be cropped. It's too steep or too shallow. Annual yields are low, soil erosion high.

Idaho farmers may retire this kind of land if they are accepted in a new program called the Conservation Reserve. The program is designed to help all of us prevent or control soil erosion and trim production of surplus farm commodities. This new program will also provide needed agricultural income, protect the land for tomorrow, help fish and wildlife, and bring cleaner water.

Conservation Reserve Program

Signup for the Conservation Reserve Program will take place March 3 through March 14 at Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service (ASCS) county offices throughout Idaho. About 122,200 acres of Idaho cropland will be eligible in the 1986 crop year for entry into the program that will take highly erodible land out of farming for 10 years and place it into trees or other permanent vegetative cover. Up to 1,697,700 acres in Idaho may be enrolled in the reserve during the 5-year period, 1986 through 1990.

The Soil Conservation Service (SCS) will determine the classification or erosion levels of land. All Class 6, 7 and 8 land is eligible, along with any land in Classes 2 through 5 that is eroding greater than three times the tolerance level as a result of sheet, till or wind erosion.

Producers wishing to put land into the program must provide a cropping history covering the years 1981 through 1985. The land must have been planted or considered to have been planted during that period. Set-aside or diverted acres not eligible for the Conservation Reserve Program. Reserve acreage will be over and above amounts needed to qualify for price support programs.

Producers must submit bids for annual rental payments at the time of application. There will be 50 percent cost-sharing on conservation cover practices. Payments will be either in cash or negotiable certificates. There is a \$50,000 per person per year limitation annual rental payments, but not on cost share. Bases, quotas, and allotments will be reduced by the ratio of cropland on the farm to the amount put into the program. The producer will choose which bases, quotas or allotment will be reduced over the life of the contract, and this history will be preserved over the life of the contract. For more information on the program, contact your local ASCS or SCS office.

For those readers interested in the impact of irrigation development upon the economy and culture of the Snake River region, you'll want to attend the following conference.

Story of Irrigation Development in the Snake River Valley

"Doers, Dreamers, Users and Visions of the Future" is the theme of a two-day conference exploring the impact of irrigation development on the economy and culture of the Snake River region of Idaho, Nevada, and Oregon. The conference will be held March 26-27 at the Red Lion Inn-Riverside, Boise, and is sponsored by the Snake River Regional Studies Center. More than 15 speakers are included on the conference program, as well as slide-tape presentations, displays, and a panel discussion by area irrigators.

Presenters will include Dr. Leonard Arrington, keynoter, BYU; Ron Carlson, Idaho Department of Water Resources; Dr. Darell Gertsch, historian, Idaho Falls; Judy Austin, historian, Boise; Dr Louie Attebery, folklorist, College of Idaho; Dr George Radosovich, Professor of Water Law, Colorado State University, Ft. Collins; Ray Rigby, attorney, Rexburg; William Ringert, Idaho State Senator, Boise; and Jack Peterson, resource economist, Boise.

The public is invited to the conference without charge. For information, contact conference director Mrs. Donna Parsons, Snake River Regional Studies Center, College of Idaho, 2112 Cleveland Blvd., Caldwell, Idaho 83605.

The Following Organizations Cooperate With The Soil Conservation Service In Snow Survey Work

State	Idaho Department of Water Resources Oregon State Engineer and Corps of State Watermasters Soil and Water Conservation Districts of Idaho
Federal	U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service U.S. Department of Army Corps of Engineers U.S. Department of Commerce NOAA, National Weather Service U.S. Department of Interior Bureau of Reclamation Geological Survey, Water Resources Division Shoshone-Bannock Tribal Council
Local	Big Lost River Irrigation District Big Wood Irrigation Company Boise Project Board of Control Idaho Water District #01 Lewiston Orchards Irrigation District Little Wood River Irrigation District North Board of Control — Owyhee Project Salmon Falls Creek Irrigation Company South Board of Control — Owyhee Project
Private	Cyprus Mining Company FMC Corporation Idaho Power Company Le Bois Resort Washington Water Power Company
	Other organizations and individuals furnish information for the snow survey reports. Their cooperation is gratefully acknowledged.

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